

HISTORIAN

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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

October 1999

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

There will not be a luncheon meeting at the Lobrano House in October because of the Cedar Rest Cemetery tour on Halloween evening. Details of that event follow.

CEDAR REST CEMETERY HALLOWEEN TOUR

The Seventh Annual Tour of Cedar Rest Cemetery will begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 31st, 1999. As always, the tour will start at the Cedar Rest Cemetery entrance and visitors will be accompanied by guides as they follow the candle-lit pathway through the cemetery.

For those not familiar with this event, people dressed in the costumes of their ancestors or other former residents of Bay Saint Louis, stand by the selected graves and recite a brief biography of that person.

There is no admission for this historic tour but donations will be accepted and the money received will be used to repair or replace broken, tilted and missing tombstones. In 1998 we had over 700 guests for the tour and were able to repair/restore 36 stones and level a number of others.

People being portrayed this year include Kate Lobrano, George Arbo, Cora & Ellen Gray, Joan Seal, Powhattan Robertson, Nathaniel Luther, Virginia Chapman Watts, William and Alice Bobbitt and Charles Marshal.

Following the tour, visitors are invited to the Kate Lobrano House around the corner for "treats."



CEDAR REST CEMETERY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI



HALLOWEEN

It's the magical night of talking crows, spells, witches' cauldrons, shrieking cats, vampires, hags with spooky names like Smoragda and Wurzel flying wildly about on broomsticks, and giants and poltergeists.

Where did they all come from?

Here are a few nuggets of Halloween history:

In the British Isles, All Hallowtide, the feast of the dead in pagan and Christian times, signaled the close of

harvest and beginning of winter. Fairies were imagined as particularly active at this season. The Celtic Gods of the dead were Gwynn ap Nudd for the British and Arawn for the Welsh; the Irish did not have a "lord of death."

The Celts believed that every year on the last day of October, the souls of the dead visited the earth. When the Romans conquered the Celts in the first century A.D., they added parts of their festivals, Feralia (honoring the dead) and Poloma (a

harvest festival).

Around the eighth century, the Christian church made November 1 All Saints' Day to honor all of the saints who did not have their own special days. Over the years these festivals combined, with the mass held on All Saints' Day called Allhallowmas (the mass of all Hallows – saintly people) and the night before was known as All Hallows Eve, eventually shortened to **Halloween**.

In the 1800s, when many people emigrated to the United States, the holidays and traditions of different cultures merged. October 31, the night before, took on other names, some calling it Devil's or Hell's Night, and others Mischief Night. In Vermont it was known as Cabbage Night. To some it was an occasion to play tricks on others, some not fun at all. Community groups and individuals took action and started to change Halloween, starting in the 1950s when youngsters were encouraged to go door-to-door seeking contributions for UNICEF to help needy children around the world. Dressing up in costumes and "trick or treating," costume parades and parties and fall festivals are some of the ways the holiday is celebrated today.

The Festival of the Dead is one of the most important happenings in both Palermo and the rest of Sicily. The second of November is a festival for the children of Palermo, who are taught that their dead relatives return the night before and leave them sweets and toys. It is a way of keeping the memory of dead relatives and loved ones alive.

No other people have embraced the festival of the Day of the Dead to the extent that the Mexicans have. The celebration begins on the evening of October 31 so that the name Los Dias de los Muertos is often used. Many regard it as the most important holiday of the year in Mexico.

BATS IN YOUR BELFRY?

Check again. Vampire bats are

really harmless, people-friendly critters:

-Vampire bats have fewer teeth than other bats because they do not chew their food.

-Besides flying, vampire bats can run, jump and hop with great speed, using their chest muscles to fling themselves forward.

-Vampire bats in the same colony support their roostmates by regurgitating blood to bats that are unable to find food.

-Vampire bats don't suck blood. They make small incisions and lap up the blood of their hosts.

Now that we've got you in a spooky mood, here's a ghost story:

THE GHOST OF ABLE FABLE AND THE MONEY ON THE TABLE

Able Fable was a miserable old man who was always worried that someone would break into his house and steal his money. Each night before he went to sleep, he would lock his wallet up in a safe located near his bed so that if anyone were to try to rob him they would have to wake him up to do it. Unfortunately, on the night that Able died he had only placed the wallet on the table

**From Ghoulies and Ghosties,
And long-leggity Beasties,
And all Things that go bump
in the night.
Good Lord deliver us.**

Robert Burns, 1786

near the safe without locking it up.

Before his death, Able told his family and friends that none of them were to touch his home or his money and that anyone who came near his safe and wallet would be greeted by his ghost and scared away.

Following Able's death the family decided that the money in the Fable house was not doing any good if not

used, so they went into the home to get it. Able's eldest son decided to make the first attempt. He opened the door and went in, saw Able's wallet on the table and reached for it. Immediately he heard a voice say:

"I am the ghost of Able Fable, put the money back on the table!"

The voice scared the son so much that he ran from the room, screaming: "I heard the voice of the ghost!"

The oldest daughter decided she would make her way into Able's room. She entered and reached for the wallet, then heard the voice:

"I am the ghost of Able Fable, put the money back on the table!"

The daughter was so scared that she dropped the wallet and ran from the room screaming: "I heard the voice of a ghost!"

The youngest son decided to make his attempt at getting the money. When he entered the room and reached for the wallet, he also heard the voice:

"I am the ghost of Able Fable, put the money back on the table!"

The youngest son decided that he was not easily scared and said back:

"Well, I am the ghost of Davey Crockett and the money is going to stay in my pocket!"

The youngest son took all the money and the ghost of Able Fable was never heard from again.

Compiled by Edith Back

BOOKS DONATED TO SOCIETY

The Hancock County Library System was in possession of an extra set of the official Civil War records and has donated it to the Historical Society.

There are 111 volumes titled *War of The Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. There is an incredible amount of information accessible through an index volume indicating the book(s) where the person being researched can be found. Then each separate volume is indexed for the specific article. They have been used numerous times since we got them and every time the information sought was found.

Thank you Prima and Mary.

ELECTION TIME IS HERE

Election of members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hancock County Historical Society for the 2000-2001 term will be conducted at the November general meeting of the Society. Installation will be at the December meeting.

The positions to be filled are President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Historian.

The election of the remaining four board positions is conducted on alternate years; that election will be in 2001. The offices then will be 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Publicity and Membership.

Bylaws of the corporation direct that members of the Board of Directors shall serve a period of 2 years and may not succeed themselves in the same position until a period of 2 years shall have passed following the end of their term in office. While it is permissible for the Board of Directors to make exceptions to this directive, it is not a good idea to abuse the practice.

At the end of my 1995-1997 term as president, the board voted to retain me for an additional two years to last through the Tercentennial celebration. I was honored to be asked and thank the board and the membership for that honor.

However, that party is nearly over and there is other work to be done. I feel there is so much in research and presentation that has been put on hold for this period and should be addressed. For that reason, I would ask that you consider running for the office of President.

I would like to announce my candidacy for Historian, a position that will allow me to continue the work I have been doing for nearly fifteen years.

Please telephone (or have someone call for you) and let us know that you are interested in serving in one of the Board positions and we will explain the duties of that office.

Charles Gray

HELP WANTED

We need volunteers to help with the Halloween festivities.

1. **300 2-liter cola bottles** to make lanterns for the walk-way. Drink up folks, we need the bottles. Drop them at Lobrano House anytime or call for pick-up.
2. **Helpers** on Sunday, October 31st to place candles for walk-way.
3. **Guides** for the tour (5 to 8 p.m.) for the evening of the 31st.
4. **Hostesses** to serve at the Kate Lobrano house (5 to 8 p.m.)
5. **Cookies, candy, cupcakes.** Please drop them off at the Lobrano house any time Friday, October 29th.
6. **Attendees** - Bring a friend if you have one, but hey, its **Halloween**, you don't have to *really* like them.

TERCENTENARY PARK TO BE COMPLETED (SOON)

We were the victims of our own success. When the park was first designed, we hoped to sell twelve plaques so that we could dress the pedestal in granite. We sold sixty! We had to send back to the quarry to have additional granite to match the original.

The supplier has the stone in-house and hopes to deliver the finished product on Monday, October 18th. Installation should take about two days. The brick walkway will also be completed at that time. There will be a total of four hundred and twenty two bricks. There are no remaining places for sale. Thank you for your support.

NEW MEMBERS

LESLIE LIONNET, DIAMONDHEAD
T. CAROL CIEUTAT, BSL, MS
BEVERLY POTTS, METAIRIE, LA
RUBIE HARRIS, BAY SAINT LOUIS
TIM MORRIS, KILN, MS
DONNA MILLER, BAY SAINT LOUIS
ENNIS JOHNSON, LB, MS
MRS. ENNIS JOHNSON, LB, MS
KATHLEEN HERILHY ASHER, BSL
MOSETTA H. WINN, POPLARVILLE
MAUREEN WADDELL, WAVELAND

BOOK DONATED BY TO SOCIETY

Many of the activities celebrated this year by the coast community were based on records from the *Jornal of the Frigate Le Marin*, translated by Henri du Ville Du Sinclair. Until now we have been working with pages copied from borrowed books. Nap Cassibry, noted coast historian, has donated a copy to the Society which has already been of great use for our research. Thank you, Nap.

NORTH BAY STUDENTS DONATE MURALS FOR TIME CAPSULE

Students in the classes of Kathleen Jenkins and Donna Miller painted four murals depicting the history of Bay Saint Louis. They will be included in the time capsule. The class presented the paintings to the Society in a delightful ceremony where each child described his or her contribution to the paintings.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY	8 a.m.
through	to
FRIDAY	4 p.m.

THE

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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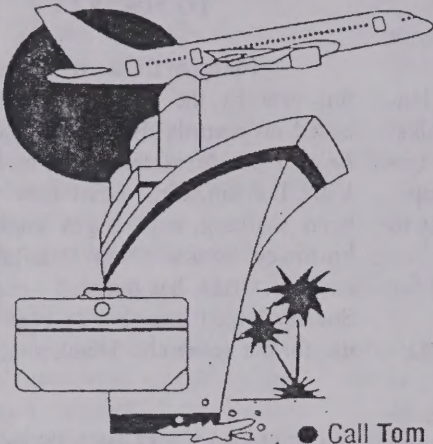
Charles H. Gray
Edith Back

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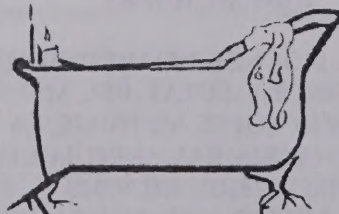
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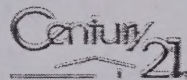
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